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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/615,732	07/08/2003	Glen Keith Russell	4164-307	1813
20575	7590	09/07/2005	EXAMINER	
MARGER JOHNSON & MCCOLLOM, P.C. 210 SW MORRISON STREET, SUITE 400 PORTLAND, OR 97204			NGUYEN, KIM T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3713	

DATE MAILED: 09/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/615,732

Applicant(s)

RUSSELL ET AL.

Examiner

Kim Nguyen

Art Unit

3713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner acknowledges receipt of the RCE filed with the amendment on 5/23/05. According to the amendment, claims 1-16 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. **Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hand et al (US 2004/0238319).**

As per claim 1 and 3, Hand discloses a gaming system comprising two gaming components (enhanced bezel and validator); each gaming component comprises a controller (paragraphs 0027-0028), a communication interface and a communication link (Fig. 4; paragraphs 0026 and 0032). Hand does not explicitly disclose allowing the controllers of the gaming components to communicate peer to peer with other controllers of other gaming components. However, Hand discloses the capability of transferring data directly between the components without a master controller to control the communications

(lines 7-9 of paragraph 0027 and paragraph 0032). Further, allowing communications on a peer-to-peer basis on different modules would have been well known to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to allow communication between controllers of Hand on a peer-to-peer basis in order to facilitate direct communications between controllers.

As per claim 2, Hand discloses a game processing unit (paragraph 0020).

As per claim 4, Hand discloses a bill validator (paragraph 0022).

As per claim 5-6, Hand discloses a link for transferring data between the bill acceptor and the enhanced bezel (paragraph 0027).

As per claim 7, Hand discloses a second communication link for communication between the components in the cabinet and components outside the cabinet (Fig. 4; paragraphs 0031-0032).

As per claim 8-10, adding or removing a component while power is on; providing power to a game component, and using IEEE 1394 link would have been well known to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

As per claim 11 and 13, refer to discussion in claim 1 above. Further, Hand discloses a gaming component located outside the cabinet (PDA or portable computer 100 in Fig. 4); an exterior communications link for allowing

the gaming components in the cabinet to communicate with the gaming component outside the cabinet (Fig. 4; paragraphs 0031-0032); and a bridge 90 (Fig. 4) (interface board to outside world). Hand does not explicitly disclose arranging the gaming components for communicating with other gaming components in a peer-to-peer fashion without a host. However, Fig. 4 discloses at least two components 12 and 92 communicated directly without a host (paragraphs 0027 and 0032). Hand further discloses that the gaming components can be connected to each other (Fig. 4). Hand obviously encompasses the obviousness of connecting the gaming components to each other peer-to-peer in order to facilitate direct connection between the components.

As per claim 12 and 14-16, implementing a game processing unit to gaming components, using IEEE 1394 back plane or cable communication bus, and providing power to an external device would have been well known to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

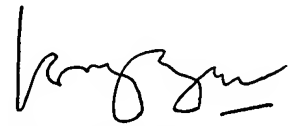
Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments on 5/23/05 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4441. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday during business hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai, can be reached on 571-272-7147. The central official fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Date: August 25, 2005



Kim Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3713